



The State of California-The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
1416 Ninth Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor  
DONALD KOCH, Director



April 15, 2009

Ms. Liv Imset, Senior License Coordinator  
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Ms. Heidi Rooks  
Environmental Program Manager  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Environmental Services  
901 P Street, 4th Floor  
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**Subject: Habitat Expansion Plan for Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook  
Salmon and Steelhead**

Dear Ms. Imset and Ms. Rooks:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to provide recommendations regarding the subject Habitat Expansion Plan and associated Habitat Expansion Agreement (HEA). As described in the HEA steering committee letter to the nine signatories dated October 28, 2008, the HEA was negotiated as an alternative to Federal Power Act fish passage prescriptions as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of Oroville, Poe, and Upper North Fork Feather River hydropower projects on the Feather River. The overall goal of the HEA is to expand the amount of habitat with physical characteristics necessary to support spawning, rearing, and adult holding for an increase of between 2,000 and 3,000 spawning spring-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River Basin.

As one of the nine signatories, our Department supports the goal of the HEA and recommends funds from the HEA be directed to the following four projects at the proposed funding level in order to achieve this goal; 1) Phase 1(b) and Phase 2 of the Battle Creek Restoration Project, \$30 million; 2) The Lower Yuba River Narrows Gravel Rehabilitation Project, \$3 million; 3) The Mill Creek TNC Water Rights Purchase, \$1.5 million; and 4) The Big Chico Creek Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Rehabilitation Project, \$1.8 million.

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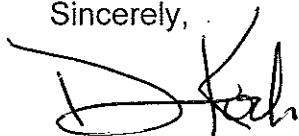
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The Department believes the Battle Creek Restoration Project should receive top priority for funding followed by the three other proposed projects. Completing the Battle Creek Restoration Project will allow spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead to reoccupy approximately 42 miles of prime habitat that has been unavailable for nearly a century.

Please find enclosed completed HEA questionnaires for each of these projects. The questionnaires were completed by Department staff and describe how each of these proposed projects helps to meet the goals of the HEA. Additionally we have submitted the completed questionnaires electronically to the appropriate location on the HEA website for easy review.

If you have any questions regarding our recommendations, please contact Staff Environmental Scientist Mike Berry at (530) 225-2131 or e-mail [mberry@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:mberry@dfg.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DKoch', written over a horizontal line.

Donald Koch  
Director

Enclosures

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